

ABSTRACT

This invention provides an information retrieval user interface wherein the method provided to the user for searching electronic collections of records or objects that are identified via the assignment of attributes and corresponding values is both powerful in its multi-criteria search capabilities and easy to learn and use relative to existing interfaces. The user is provided with the ability to enter search criteria by selecting from the list of available attributes and entering a corresponding value for the selected attribute. The resulting answer set corresponds to the records returned based on the sequence of all previous user executed actions. The user can continue selecting attribute and value criteria and performing actions thereby altering the answer set until the desired result is achieved.